AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method of discovering that a network node has been connected to a computer network including a network server arrangement, the method comprising the steps of:

responding to the establishment of the connection of the network node to the network by transmitting an initial access request from the network node to a the network server arrangement via the network, ~~of a computer network, the network being arranged for coupling the network node to the computer network,~~

~~transmitting a discovery request from the network server to a discovery server, the discovery~~ the network server arrangement responding to the initial access request by (a) deriving a request comprising an identifier of the network node, ~~and~~(b) performing a discovery procedure of the network node by the discovery server using the identifier, (c) storing an indication of the time of the initial access request transmitted by the network node, and (d) responding to a subsequent access request received by the network server arrangement from the same network node by deriving a subsequent discovery request in response to the subsequent access request only if the subsequent

access request is separated by at least a predetermined amount of time from the indicated time stored in step (c).

2. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising ~~processing~~ processing, by the network server arrangement, (a) the access request ~~by the network server~~ so the access request is selectively accepted or refused ~~and~~ and, (b) as a result of the processing, by the network server arrangement, generating the discovery request ~~by the network server after acceptance of~~ in response to the access request being accepted.

3. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, ~~whereby~~ wherein the access request is a log on request.

4. (Currently amended) The method of claim 3, wherein the network server ~~being~~ arrangement includes a domain controller.

5. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, ~~whereby~~ wherein the access request is an Internet protocol address request.

6. (Currently amended) The method of claim 5, wherein the network server ~~being~~ arrangement includes a dynamic host configuration protocol server.

7. (Canceled)

8. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the discovery procedure ~~comprising~~ comprises polling the network node to discover at least one of network topology, network node type, network node status and network node configuration information.

9. (Currently amended) A method of coupling a user device to a computer network, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving an initial access request from the user device by a network server arrangement of the computer network, the network server arrangement being arranged for coupling the user device to the computer network, and

~~sending~~ deriving a discovery request ~~from~~ by the network server ~~to a discovery server to request~~ arrangement, the discovery request causing a discovery procedure to be performed by the ~~discovery~~ network server arrangement for the network node, receiving, at the network server arrangement, a subsequent access request from the network node, the subsequent access request being for renewed coupling of the network node to the computer network,

determining whether the renewed access request is spaced from the initial access request by at least a predetermined amount of time; and

if the renewed access request is spaced from the initial access request by at least the predetermined amount of time, sending a renewed discovery request to the discovery server to request a renewed discovery procedure to be performed for the network node.

10. (Currently amended) The method of claim 9, wherein the user device ~~being~~ includes a portable client computer and the access ~~request being a~~ requests are log on ~~request~~requests.

11. (Currently amended) The method of claim 9, wherein the user device ~~being~~ includes a computer peripheral and the access request ~~being~~ is an Internet protocol address request.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Currently amended) The method of claim 9, further comprising processing the access request by the network server arrangement and generating the discovery request by the network server arrangement only if the access request has been accepted by the network server arrangement.

14. (Original) The method of claim 9, further comprising temporarily coupling the network node to the computer network by a docking station.

15. (Currently amended) A storage medium or device storing a computer program for initiating a discovery procedure for a network node, the computer program ~~causing~~ being such as to cause the network to perform a method comprising:

receiving an initial access request from the network node for coupling the network node to the computer network, and

generating a discovery request for initiating a discovery procedure for the network node in response to the initial access request,

determining whether a subsequent access request, which is received after the access request, is spaced from the initial access request by at least a predetermined amount of time, and

generating the discovery request only if the subsequent access request is spaced from the initial access request by at least a predetermined amount of time.

16. (Canceled)

17. (Currently amended) The storage medium or device of claim 15, wherein the program is ~~adapted~~ such as to cause the network to time stamp the access request.

18. (Currently amended) A storage medium or device storing a computer program for performing a discovery procedure, the computer program being arranged for ~~performing~~ causing a server arrangement of a computer in a network to perform steps including:

receiving a discovery request from a network server, the discovery request comprising an identifier of a network node, ~~and~~

performing a discovery procedure for the network node using the identifier,

storing identifiers of network nodes in a buffer memory, and

performing the discovery procedure by polling the network node.

19.-23. (Canceled)

24. (Currently amended) A dynamic host configuration protocol server comprising:

a dynamic host configuration protocol component for coupling an IP address to a network node in response to an IP address request received from the network node, ~~and~~

a discovery initiation component for generating a discovery request in response to the IP address request, the discovery request comprising the IP address to enable a discovery server to perform a discovery procedure for the network node identified by the IP address, the discovery initiation component being arranged to generate the discovery request only if at least a predetermined amount of time has passed since a previous discovery request for the network node.

25. (Canceled)

26. (Currently amended) A discovery server module comprising:

a memory component for storing an IP address received as part of a discovery request from a dynamic host configuration protocol server module, and

a discovery program component for performing a discovery procedure of a network node being identified by the IP address stored in the memory component in response to the discovery request, the discovery program component being arranged to perform the discovery procedure by polling the network node to discover at least one of network topology, network

node type, network node status and network node configuration information.

27. (Canceled)

28. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the method is performed for a plurality of access requests from a plurality of networked nodes, the network server arrangement simultaneously storing the identifier for each of the network nodes.

29. (New) The method of claim 28 wherein the network server arrangement simultaneously stores the identifier for each of the networked nodes as a stack in first-in-first-out order.

30. (New) A method of discovering that a plurality of network nodes have been connected to a computer network including a network server arrangement, the method comprising, for each of the networked nodes, the steps of:

responding to the establishment of the connection of the particular network node to the network by transmitting an initial access request from the network node to the network server arrangement five the network,

the network server arrangement responding to the initial access request by (a) deriving a request comprising an identifier of the network node, (b) performing a discovery procedure of the network node by the discovery server using the identifier, (c) simultaneously storing the identifier for each of the network nodes.

31. (New) The method of claim 30 wherein the network server arrangement simultaneously stores the identifier for each of the networked nodes as a stack in first-in-first-out order.